

CLASSIFICATION **CONFIDENTIAL**
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR
 SUBJECT Scientific - Radio, parts
 HOW PUBLISHED Monthly periodical
 WHERE PUBLISHED Moscow
 DATE PUBLISHED Feb 1950
 LANGUAGE Russian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1950

DATE DIST. // Aug 1950

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Radio, No 2, 1950.

THE PROBLEM OF SUPPLYING RADIO PARTS IN THE USSR

B. Aleksandrov

Continuous radiofication of kolkhoz villages has again presented the problem of supplying radio parts. The great extension of radiofication to rural districts has made the long-standing lag in the supply of parts extremely acute from the standpoint of mass radiofication requirements, and the needs of radio amateurs and listeners. Many local consumer unions do not carry receivers and batteries in stock and refuse to accept radio goods.

The Rodina receiver used to be very popular in the rural districts without electric power. And it is hard to believe that these receivers are not needed in Uzbek SSR, Tadzhik SSR, Chita and Poltava oblasts, and the Bashkir ASSR. But the consumer unions of these oblasts and republics refuse to accept radio receivers. Complaints about the shortage of batteries come in from the Groznyy, Vladimir, and Orlov oblasts, from the Armenian and Kirgiz SSRs, the Kabardin ASSR, from Sakhalin and Kamchatka. All this is happening while thousands of batteries lie in the plants awaiting shipment. Hundreds of thousands of crystal receivers have been sold in recent years in country districts. Many receivers have been built by radio amateurs. Yet there are many places where it is impossible to buy spare crystals.

The lag in the trade network is most keenly felt in districts and oblasts which are well advanced in radiofication. Thus, the leading organizations of Omsk Oblast stress the fact that the rate of radiofication in the oblast would be much higher if it were not for the inertia of the mercantile organizations which do not ship the necessary parts in time.

"The consumer cooperative in our rayon, which has made great progress in radiofication," V. Gursayev writes us from Bezhetka, "does nothing about sending radio apparatus to the villages. Members of kolkhozes flatly refuse any old shop-worn goods and demand the latest improvements in radio goods. They want to have powerful loudspeakers in the kolkhoz streets. But there are none for sale in the village shops. There are seldom any tubes or batteries for the Rodina receiver. Mercantile organizations regard radio apparatus as something of minor importance which is not marketable."

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N. Shubin writes: "In the shop of the rayon center of Mari ASSR -- the Yurino workers' settlement -- there are dynamic loudspeakers, two second-class receivers, and a radio-phonograph on the shelves, but no transformers, tubes, nor fixed and variable condensers."

A striking example of indifference to the interests of radio amateurs is furnished by the Municipal Trade Department and shops in Biysk, where tubes are sold only in sets, and all the condensers have the same capacitance. For a long time, the trade organizations of Omsk Oblast have been receiving shipments of receivers without antennas. This makes their sale and installation very difficult.

In 1949, brigades of active members of the Central and Moscow Municipal Radio Clubs made a check on radio goods in the trade network of Moscow. In some shops which offered a selection of parts, there were, for example, no electrolytic condensers, without which it is impossible to build a tube receiver. In other shops there were often no tubes for sale; in many, there were no suitable auto-transformers and power transformers for radios, wire-wound resistors and rheostats, band selectors, or tools for installing antennas.

A similar "raid" on Riga shops by active radio amateur members of the DOSARM Republic Radio Club of the Latvian SSR showed that there were often no sales sections for radio parts in the affiliates of the "Svyaz'elektrosbyt" shops.

The Board of the Ministry of Transportation and the Central Committee of the Railroad Transportation Workers' Trade Union, in a resolution on the radiofication of railroad stations and locomotive cabs, entrusted the Main Administration of the Workers' Committee of the Ministry of Transportation with the task of developing sales for radio parts, tubes, and batteries. The task has not been accomplished. Just as before, there are no radio parts to be found in the railroad stores or in the railroad-car shops of the Belorussian, Perm, Odessa or Stalin railroads.

Trade organizations still have no plans for delivering radio apparatus and spare parts in sufficient quantities for the radiofication program of the rayons and oblasts.

Recently, the "Soyuzposyltorg" took over the job of supplying parts to local radio amateurs and listeners. But the assortment of radio parts in their price lists is still very limited and cannot satisfy the demand of radio amateurs. Incidentally, one obstacle to delivery of radio goods is the parcel post weight restriction established by the Ministry of Communications.

At present, the radio industry has in storage great stocks of many types of radio parts and tubes, some of which may soon be put on the market. However, it does not follow that the consumer cooperatives and the State Trade Commission have no complaints against radio plants. In 1949, the industry somewhat expanded production of scarce radio parts, but the assortment was still incomplete. The greatest obstacle to the development of radiofication and radio amateurism is the shortage of all types of tubes, in particular, tubes for battery-operated receivers.

The present spare parts situation is intolerable. A radical change must take place in this business both in cities and villages. The problem must be solved by the Board of the Ministry of Trade USSR and the Central Union of Consumers' Associations.

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